

T H E

Lords P R O T E S T

On the Motion to Address His Majesty to settle
100,000 *l. per Annum* on the Prince of *Wales*.

To which is added,

- I. His Majesty's Message to the Prince of *Wales*, by the Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Steward, Lord Chamberlain, Dukes of *Richmond*, *Argyle*, *Newcastle*, Earls of *Pembroke*, *Scarborough*, and Lord *Harrington*.
- II. S P E A K E R S in the Debate of the House of Commons, on the above Motion.
- III. Sir J--- B-----'s Reasons for the Representatives of the People of Great Britain, to take Advantage of the Present Rate of Interest, for the more speedy Lessening the National Debt, and Taking off the most Burthenfome of the Taxes.
- IV. S P E A K E R S in the Debate on the Bill for reducing the Redeemable Funds to *Three per Cent*.
- V. An A C T to disable *Alexander Wilson*, Esq; from taking, holding, or enjoying any Office or Place of Magistracy in the City of *Edinburgh*, or elsewhere, in *Great Britain*; and for imprisoning the said *Alexander Wilson*; and for abolishing the Guard kept up in the said City, commonly called *The Town Guard*; and for taking away the Gates of the *Nether-Bow Port* of the said City, and keeping open the same.
- VI. Q U E S T I O N S Propos'd by the D--e of A---le, on which the Judges should deliver their Opinions, in relation to the said Act.
- VII. A S T A T E of the National Debt, provided or unprovided for by Parliament, as it stood *December 31. 1735*, and *December 31. 1736*. Together with an Account of the Produce of the Sinking Fund, &c.

L O N D O N:

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Where may be had,

All the Protests on the Pension-Bill; also those for Four Years last past.

Lords PR OTEST

On the Motion to Address His Majesty to raise
100,000 £ per annum on the Prince of Wales.

To which is added

I. His Majesty's Message to the House of Lords, by the Lord Chancellor,
Lord President, Lord Steward, Lord Chamberlain, Dukes of Richmond,
Duke of Devonshire, Duke of Devonshire, and Lord Harrington.

II. A BILL in the House of Commons, for the

III. A BILL in the House of Commons, for the

IV. SPEAKERS in the Debate on the Bill for reducing the

V. An ACT to enable His Majesty, His Highness the Duke of Devonshire, or
any other Person, to purchase any Estate or Estates in the City of Edinburgh, or
any other Place, and for enabling the said Duke of Devonshire, or any other
Person, to purchase any Estate or Estates in the City of Edinburgh, or any other
Place, and for enabling the said Duke of Devonshire, or any other Person, to
purchase any Estate or Estates in the City of Edinburgh, or any other Place,

VI. QUESTIONS Proposed by the Duke of Devonshire, on which the
House should deliver their Opinions, in relation to the said ACT.

VII. STATE of the National Debt, provided or unprovided for
by Parliament, as at Good Friday 1795, and at the 1st of January 1796,
together with an Account of the Produce of the Sinking Fund, &c.

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Where may be had
All the Papers on the National Debt; also those for Four Years last past.

Lords P R O T E S T

On the Motion to Address His Majesty to settle
100,000 *l. per Annum* on the Prince of *Wales*.

Die Martis 25^o Februarij 1736.

TH E House being moved, That an Humble Address be presented to His Majesty, to express the just Sense of this House, of His Majesty's great Goodness and tender Regard for the lasting Welfare and Happiness of His People, in the Marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*; and as this House cannot omit any Opportunity of shewing their Zeal and Regard for His Majesty's Honour, and the Prosperity of his Family, humbly to beseech His Majesty, That, in Consideration of the high Rank and Dignity of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of *Wales*, and their many eminent Virtues and Merits, he would be graciously pleased to settle 100,000*l.* a Year on the Prince of *Wales*, out of the Revenues cheerfully granted to His Majesty (for the Expences of his Civil Government, and better supporting the Dignity of the Crown, and for enabling His Majesty to make an honourable Provision for his Family) in the same Manner His Majesty enjoy'd it before his happy Accession to the Throne: And also humbly to beseech His Majesty, to settle the like Jointure on Her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales*, as her Majesty had, when she was Princess of *Wales*, and to assure His Majesty, that this House will be ready to do every thing on their Part, to perform the same, as nothing will more conduce to the strengthening of His Majesty's Government, than honourably supporting the Dignity of their Royal Highnesses, from whom we hope to see a numerous Issue, to deliver down the Blessings of His Majesty's Reign to the latest Posterity.

The Duke of *Newcastle*, by His Majesty's Command, made the like Signification to the House of the Message sent by His Majesty in Writing to the Prince of *Wales*, and of the Report of His Royal Highness's Verbal Answer, as is printed in the Votes of the House of Commons of the 22d Instant:

And the same being read by the Lord Chancellor,

After long Debate upon the foregoing Motion,

The Question was put, Whether such an Address shall be presented to His Majesty?

It was resolved in the Negative.

Contents 28. Proxies 12. In all 40. Not Content 79. Proxies 24. In all 103.

Dissentient

1. Because that this House has an undoubted Right to offer, in an humble Address to His Majesty, their Sense, upon all Subjects in which this House shall conceive, that the Honour and Interest of the Nation are concerned.

1. Because the Honour and Interest of the Nation, Crown, and Royal Family, can be concerned in nothing more, than in having a due and independent Provision made for the First-born Son, and Heir Apparent to the Crown.

3. Because, in the late King's Reign, 100,000 *l.* a Year, clear of all Deductions whatsoever, was settled upon His present Majesty when Prince of *Wales*, out of a Civil List not exceeding 700,000 *l.* a Year.

4. Be-

4. Because His present Majesty had granted him by Parliament, several Funds to compose a Civil List of 800,000 *l.* a Year, which we have very good Reason to believe bring in at least 900,000 *l.* and are more likely to increase than to diminish.

5. Because out of this extraordinary and growing Civil List, we humbly conceive his Majesty may be able to make an honourable Provision for the rest of his Royal Family, without any Necessity of lessening that Revenue which, in his own Case, when he was Prince of *Wales*, the Wisdom of Parliament adjudged to be a proper Maintainance for the First-born Son, and Heir Apparent of the Crown.

6. Because it is the undoubted Right of Parliament to explain the Intention of their own Acts, and to offer their Advice in Pursuance thereof. And tho', in the inferior Courts of *Westminster-hall*, the Judges can only consider an Act of Parliament according to the Letter and express Words of the Act, the Parliament itself may proceed in a higher Way, by declaring what was their Sense in passing it, and on what Grounds, especially in a Matter recent, and within the Memory of many in the House, as well as out of it.

7. Because there were many obvious and good Reasons, why the Sum of 100,000 *l.* per Annum for the Prince, was not specified in the Act passed at that Time, particularly his being a Minor, and unmarried. But we do apprehend, that it is obvious, that the Parliament would not have granted to His Majesty so great a Revenue above that of the late King, but with an Intention that 100,000 *l.* a Year should at a proper Time be settled on the Prince, in the same Manner as it was enjoyed by his Royal Father when he was Prince of *Wales*: And His Royal Highness being now Thirty Years old, and most happily married, we apprehend it can no longer be delayed, without Prejudice to the Honour of the Family, the Right of the Prince, and Intention of the Parliament. And as in many Cases the Crown is known to stand as Trustee for the Publick, upon Grants in Parliament; so we humbly conceive, that in this Case, according to the Intention of Parliament, the Crown stands as Trustee for the Prince, for the aforesaid Sum.

8. Because we do conceive, that the present Princess of *Wales* ought to have the like Jointure that Her present Majesty had when She was Princess of *Wales*, and that it would be for the Honour of the Crown, that no Distinction whatsoever should be made between Persons of equal Rank and Dignity.

9. Because we apprehend, that it has always been the Policy of this Country, and Care of Parliament, that a suitable Provision, independent of the Crown, should be made for the Heir Apparent, that by shewing him early the Ease and Dignity of Independence, he may learn by his own Experience, how a Great and Free People should be govern'd. And as we are convinc'd in our Consciences, that if this Question had been passed in the Affirmative, it would have prevented all future Uneasiness that may unhappily rise upon this Subject, by removing the Cause of such Uneasiness, and giving His Royal Highness what we apprehend to be his Right; We make use of the Privileges inherent in Members of this House, to clear our selves to all Posterity from being concerned in laying it aside.

10. Lastly, We thought it more incumbent upon us to insist upon this Motion, for the sake of this Royal Family, under which alone we are fully convinced we can live Free, and under the Royal Family we are fully determined we will live Free.

Winchelsea and
Nottingham
Berkshire
Cobham
Chesterfield

Cardigan
Marlborough
Carteret
Bridgewater
Bedford

Weymouth
Batburst
Coventry
Ker
Suffolk

His Majesty's Message to the Prince of *Wales*, by the Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Steward, Lord Chamberlain, Dukes of *Richmond*, *Argyle*, *Newcastle*, Earls of *Pembroke*, *Scarborough*, and Lord *Harrington*; which being in Writing, was as follows, viz.

HIS Majesty has commanded Us to acquaint your Royal Highness, in His Name, That, upon your Royal Highness's Marriage, He immediately took into his Royal Consideration the settling a proper Jointure upon the Princess of *Wales*; but his sudden going abroad, and his late Indisposition since his Return, had hitherto retarded the

the Execution of these his gracious Intentions; from which short Delay His Majesty did not apprehend any Inconveniencies could arise, especially since no Application had, in any Manner been made to Him upon this Subject by your Royal Highness; And that His Majesty hath now given Orders for settling a Jointure upon the Princess of *Wales*, as far as He is enabled by Law, suitable to Her high Rank and Dignity; which He will, in proper Time, lay before his Parliament, in order to be rendered certain and effectual, for the Benefit of Her Royal Highness.

The King has further commanded us to acquaint your Royal Highness, that, although your Royal Highness has not thought fit, by any Application to His Majesty, to desire that your Allowance of Fifty thousand Pounds *per Annum*, which is now paid you by monthly Payments, at the Choice of your Royal Highness, preferably to quarterly Payments, might, by His Majesty's further Grace and Favour, be rendered less precarious, His Majesty, to prevent the bad Consequences, which, He apprehends, may follow from the undutiful Measures, which, His Majesty is informed, your Royal Highness has been advised to pursue, will grant to your Royal Highness, for His Majesty's Life, the said Fifty thousand Pounds *per Annum*, to be issuing out of His Majesty's Civil List Revenues, over and above your Royal Highness's Revenues arising from the Duchy of *Cornwall*; which His Majesty thinks a very competent Allowance, considering His numerous Issue, and the great Expences which do and must necessarily attend an honourable Provision for His whole Royal Family:

And to this Message his Royal Highness the Prince returned a verbal Answer, which, according to the best Recollection and Remembrance of the Lords, was in Substance as follows, *viz.*

That his Royal Highness desired the Lords to lay him, with all Humility, at His Majesty's Feet; and to assure His Majesty, that he had, and ever should retain the utmost Duty for His Royal Person; That his Royal Highness was very thankful for any Instance of His Majesty's Goodness to him, or the Princess, and particularly for His Majesty's gracious Intention of settling a Jointure upon her Royal Highness; but that, as to the Message, the Affair was now out of his Hands, and therefore he could give no Answer to it:

After which, his Royal Highness used many dutiful Expressions towards His Majesty, and then added, "Indeed, my Lords, it is in other Hands; I am sorry for it." or to that Effect:

His Royal Highness concluded with earnestly desiring the Lords, to represent his Answer to His Majesty in the most respectful and dutiful Manner.

S P E A K E R S in the Debate of the House of Commons.

Mr. Pulteney,
Sir John Barnard,
Mr. Hedges,
Lord Baltimore,
Mr. Waller,
Sir William Windham,
Mr. Herbert
Mr. Pitt,
Mr. Gybbon
Mr. Lyttleton,
Mr. Walter Plumer;
Mr. Greenville,
Mr. Bootle,
Sir John Rushout,
Sir John Barnard,
Mr. Henry Bathurst,
Mr. Noel,
Sir Thomas Saunderson,
Mr. Frederick,

} Sir Robert Walpole.
}
} Master of the Rolls.
}
} Mr. Pelham.
}
} Mr. Solicitor-General.
} Mr. Secretary of War.

} Mr. Dancers.

Division for the Prince 204
Against 234

Sir J----- B-----'s

REASONS

FOR THE

Representatives of the People of Great Britain, to take Advantage of the Present Rate of Interest, for the more speedy Lessening the National Debt, and Taking off the most Burthenfome of the Taxes.

NO more Money ought any Year to be raised, or continued at any Time to be raised, on the Subject, than is absolutely necessary for the *Well-being* of the Nation, and to enable it to make good its *Engagements*. Whatever Money is raised for the *Current Service* of the Year, or extraordinary Sum annually Paid for *Interest Money* to the *Publick Creditors*, ariseth from *Taxes* on the People of *Great Britain*.

The People of *Great Britain* have a *Right*, and it is but *Justice*, that the Money raised upon them, by the many and various *Taxes*, should be managed to the *best Advantage*, and most for the *Publick Interest*.

A *Trustee* for an *Infant*, with a Mortgage on his Estate at 4 per Cent. would be guilty of a Breach of *Trust*, if he could borrow Money at 3 per Cent. to pay it off, should he refuse to do it.

Every *Member* of *Parliament* is a *Trustee* for the *People*, and bound in *Duty* to manage the *Publick Affairs* for their *greatest Advantage*.

The *Creditors* of the *Publick* can have no *just Cause* to complain, if the *Parliament* act no otherwise than in pursuance of their several *Stipulations* with them.

However inconvenient it may prove to the *Whole* or any *Part* of the *Publick Creditors*, particularly *Widows* and *Orphans*, to receive 3 per Cent. in lieu of 4 per Cent; this higher Rate of Interest cannot be continued to them whenever sufficient Money can be borrowed to pay them off, without doing the *biggest Injustice* to the *Subjects in General*, by continuing the Payment of extraordinary and unnecessary *Taxes* upon them.

Many of the *Taxes* lie heavy on the *Poor* and the *Manufacturer*, by being laid on the *Necessaries of Life*, of which the *Poor* consume more than the *Rich*; as the Excises on *Malt*, *Beer*, *Ale*, and *Salt*, and also the *Taxes* on *Soap*, *Candles*, *Coals*, and *Leather*.

As nothing but *absolute Necessity* could justify the laying such heavy *Taxes* on the *Necessaries of Life*; so nothing but *absolute Necessity* can justify the continuing them. Certain it is, that the *Conveniency* of a few particular *Persons* can never do it.

All the Money, which the *Necessities* of the *Publick* require to be raised, ought to be raised on *Property*, or *Articles of Luxury*; but nothing on the *Necessaries of Life*, without the most *absolute Necessity*.

One per Cent. saved on the *Publick Debt* due to *Foreigners* is so much Money, as it shall amount to, actually saved to the Nation; and by One per Cent. being saved on all the *Redeemable Debts*, so much Money as that shall amount to, there will be less to be raised by *Taxes* on the People of *Great Britain*.

The Nation is not able to continue to pay the high Rate of Interest it does to *Foreigners*, because in time it will drein the Kingdom of too much Money to be spared, or is either *Prudent* or *Just* for it to spare.

One per Cent. saved out of *Four per Cent.* will in 47 Years, if that *One per Cent.* be constantly applied to discharge the *Debt*, entirely pay off the same.

If the *Debt* should continue at 4 per Cent. without paying off any of the *Principal*, the Nation, at the End of 47 Years, will be in the same Condition, in respect to its *Debt*, as it is now, tho' in the mean time it will pay to *Foreigners*, supposing their
Debt

Debt Twelve Millions, above *Twenty-two Millions and a Half* of Money.—A Sum too large for this Nation to part with, and yet not be any thing more out of Debt!

A *large Debt* carrying a *high Interest* to *Foreigners*, will be as *certain Ruin* to a Nation, as *high Interest* is a *certain Ruin* to any *Private Person* in his *Estate*.

This Nation being then in this *very bad Situation*, is it not *absolutely necessary* for the People's *Representatives* in Parliament to use their *utmost Efforts* to endeavour to get the Nation out of *Debt*, consistent with *Justice* and *Parliamentary Faith*?

Whatever *Objections* are made from *Prejudice*, and which are only *suggested*, not *proved*, that the Lowering of Interest will have on all *Sorts* of People, as well *Landholders* and *Tenants*, as *Traders*; they have not in *Fact* any thing to do with this Question, because it is not proposed to lower either the Rate of Interest between *Man and Man*, or of the current Rate of Interest of the *Publick Stocks* and *Securities*.

It is evident, that the current Rate of Interest of *all the Publick Securities*, is under *3 per Cent*, since no *3 per Cent Securities* can be had under a *Premium*; and were the Legislature to enact the *4 per Cents* perpetual unredeemable Annuities, they would sell at *140* at least; so that altho' the Publick would pay *4 per Cent*, the Rate of Interest at *Market* for these Annuities, would be under *3 per Cent*.

It is not in the Power of the Legislature, by a Law, to make the Rate of Interest, either between *Particular Persons*, or in respect to, the *Publick Securities*, higher or lower; both will be governed by *other Causes*, which are *natural*.

If *One per Cent* shall be saved, by a Reduction of Interest on the Publick Debts, and some of the *most burthensome Taxes* taken off in *proportion*, it will be so far from lowering the *natural Rate* of Interest, that it will have a Tendency the *other Way*.

It is the Force of Money drawn from *all Parts* of the Country into *one Place*, that has operated so strongly to reduce the Rate of Interest of the Publick Securities; like *Water*, which, when collected into a Body, has a Force which it is destitute of when spread over a *large Surface*.

A *poor labouring Man*, who has a *Wife*, and a *Number of Children* to maintain from the *Sweat of his Brow*, is as *much* intitled to *Compassion*, as a *Widow* and *Orphans*, who may have the *Conveniences*, or even the *Necessaries* of Life lessened by a Reduction of Interest.

There is *Justice* as well as *Compassion* on the Side of the People in general, and *only Compassion* on the Side of the Publick Creditors in particular.

The Publick Debts encourage *IDLENESS*, the *Mother of Luxury*, which if paid off would encourage, and even *force INDUSTRY* in *Trade*, *Manufacture* and *Improvements of Lands*, by which the Nation must *necessarily* flourish and grow strong, altho' *every Individual* in the Nation should fancy himself, for the *present*, something affected by this Alteration.

This may be illustrated by Money raised on *every Subject* in the Kingdom, which altho' it brings a *present Inconvenience*, yet if it be employed to prevent some *impending Ruin*, and actually *procures* that *End*, fully repays the *present Inconvenience*.

No Nation, which is incumbered with a *great Debt*, and *heavy Taxes*, can, on any *proper Occasion*, exert itself in such a Manner as it could do, if it were free from such Incumbrances.

Every Nation ought, in case of a most *necessary War*, to raise as much of the Money as is *possible* for the carrying on that War, on the *present Generation*.

If the necessary Demand for that War be more than can well be raised *within the Year*, it is fit and proper to mortgage Taxes to carry it on, for the Benefit of the *present* and *future Generations*: But as soon as that War is over, it is highly incumbent on the *present Generation* to take all *just* and *proper Methods* to extricate the Nation from that Load of Debt, which the *Necessities* of former Times had involved it in.

To consult too much our *present Ease*, and say, that *Posterity* ought to bear its *Share* of the *Burthen*, because they will reap the *Benefit* of it, proceeds wholly from a *meer selfish Principle*, and is entirely void of any *true Love* for our *Country*; and *acting* accordingly, may deprive a Nation of the *Means* of defending itself in a Time of *as much Danger* as any *former War*, or lay the Legislature under a *Necessity* of breaking through *Parliamentary Faith*.

If this Nation had been as much in Debt at the *Beginning*, as at the *Ending* of the *last great War*, it had been utterly impossible to have carried on that War, either in the *glorious Manner*, or at the *great Expence* it was carried on.

It is the *Plenty* of *Money* that makes the *Rate* of *Interest* *low*, and *That*, in all *Countries*, tends to make *Provisions* of all kinds *dear*, how therefore can the *Lowness* of *Interest* make them *cheap*? If *Provisions* are *cheaper* since the *Interest* on the *Publick Securities* was *lessened*, it must necessarily proceed from some *other Causes*.

If it be said, that the *less* People receive from the *Publick* for *Interest*, the *less* they will have to spend; to this it is answered; First, That *Foreigners* spend not *any Part* of this *Interest Money* in *Provisions*; Secondly, That great Part of what is received by the Subjects of *Great Britain* is not *spent*, but *laid out* again in *Securities publick* or *private*; And, Thirdly, That if the *Taxes* shall be taken off, or *less* raised, in Proportion to the *Money* saved by a *Reduction* of *One per Cent*, the People in *General* will have so much *more* to spend.

But the Argument for the *Publick* to continue to pay *4 per Cent*, in order to *keep up* the *Price* of *Provisions*, if it prove *any thing*, it will prove *too much*; since it will *equally* prove, that the *Publick* ought to have *continued* to pay *6 per Cent*, or a *higher Rate* of *Interest*.

The Reasons for the lowering of the *Interest* of the *Publick Redeemable Debts* are *plain*, *evident*, and *just*; the Reasons *against* the doing it are *unjust*, and not capable of being *made out* with any *Clearness* and *Certainty*.

Evil ought not to be *done*, that *Good* may *come of it*; consequently *grievous* and *heavy Taxes* ought not to be *continued* on the *Poor*, to pay *Interest Money*, and (if some *Gentlemens Arguments* are of *any Weight*) to make *Provisions* *dear*.

It is desir'd, on the one Hand, that the *Manufactures* of this Kingdom may be made *cheap*, in order to preserve to it its *Foreign Trade*; and, on the other, that *Provisions* may be *dear*, for the sake of *Rents*. These are Contradictions, since *Labour* is generally *low* when *Provisions* are *cheapest*.

Altho' it is said, and probably with Truth, that when *Provisions* are *dear*, the *Manufacturers* will work more *Days* in a *Week* than they will do when *Provisions* are *cheap*, and from thence argued, that the *Cheapness* of *Provisions* is a *Hindrance* to *Manufactures*; the Argument is fallacious.

For though *some* of the People may be idle, and work but little when *Provisions* are *cheap*, yet it is certain, there are *great Numbers* of laborious People, who work *every Day* in the *Week*, and yet can hardly supply a *Wife* and *many Children*, (which is often their Lot) with the *bare Necessaries* of *Life*; and, surely, *these* ought not to be oppress'd, because *some* People will be idle.

When the *Dearness* of *Provisions* arises from the *Scarcity*, the *poorer Sort* must be destitute of *sufficient* of the *Necessaries* of *Life*.

If it be said, that if *Provisions* were *always* *dear*, all the *Poor* would be forced to make an Offer of working *every Day*, and by that means give the Persons employing them an Opportunity to *reduce* their *Wages*; it is answered, That, in such Case, if the *common Plenty* of *Provisions* continued, and there were no *Multiplication* of *Work*, the *Price* of *Provisions* would inevitably *fall*; because a very considerable Part of the Produce of the Lands of *Great Britain* is consumed by *working People* and their *Families*.

It is true in *Theory*, that the following Maxim stands good, viz. *Take away the Cause, and the Effect ceases*; but in *Fact* it often happens, that the *Effect* continues, when the original *Cause* has ceased.

The present bad Situation of the *Farmers* seems to arise from the following Causes, at least in Part.

The *Landlords* being oppress'd with the *Land-Tax*, as well as *other Taxes*, during the last great War, and seeing their Tenants *thrive*, took the opportunity, many of them, of *raising* their *Rents*.

A great Number of People extraordinary being then employed as Seamen and Soldiers, and many of them losing their *Lives* yearly, there were others entered and lifted to supply their Room, and there being all this Time a *brisk Trade*, which employed the *Manufacturers*, *common labouring People* became scarce, and *Provisions* also rising, the *Artificers* and *Labourers* of all Kinds took the Opportunity of raising their *Wages*.

The War bringing many Calamities on several Parts of *Europe*, occasioned, among other Things, a very great Want of *Corn*, which Want was generally supplied by large Exportations from this Kingdom, which kept the *Price* of *Provisions* in general pretty high; one Article of the *Necessaries* of *Life* having an Influence on *others*: This enabled the *Farmers* to pay their *Rents*, to *advance* the *Wages* of the *Labourers*, and also to live in a *better Manner* than before, even notwithstanding the *new-created Taxes*; and

and the *People* being generally *employed*, *Trade abroad* very good, and many growing *rich* by the *War*, or by *lending* their *Money* to the *Government*, they were enabled to purchase *Provisions* at an *advanced Price*, as well as to *bear* and *pay* all the *additional Taxes*.

Great Improvements have been made of the *Lands* in almost all Parts of *Great Britain* since the Peace of *Utrecht*, and the Exportation of *Corn* and the Publick Expence of *Provisions* much *lessen'd*, many of the *Farmers* find themselves in Farms paying greater *Rents* to their *Landlords*, as well as *Wages* to their *Labourers*, than before the last great War, and yet *living higher* than they did *formerly*, and being not able to sell their *Produce* at so good or so certain *Prices*, and moreover burthened with *heavier Taxes*, there is hardly any possible way for them to pay their *Rents*, and *live*.

It seems therefore highly necessary for the Publick to begin to think of giving some *Relief*, as well to the *Farmers* as other the *useful Subjects* of *Great Britain*, before they are entirely ruined and beggared, by taking off some of the *most Burthensome Taxes*.

If any Person should *sport* himself with descanting on *this* or *that* particular Tax, and attempt to shew how *light* or *inconsiderable* it will be to any Person greatly interested in the Publick Securities, in Proportion to a Reduction of *One per Cent. per Annum*; it requires no other Answer, than to observe, That *all the Taxes together* are a *very heavy Burthen* on the *People in General*, how *convenient* soever they may be to *particular Persons* concerned in the *Collection*, or to those who have the *Appointments* of them; and altho' the Parliament cannot give *entire Relief* to the Subject by taking off *all Taxes*, yet this is not any Reason why they should not begin to take off such as are *Discouragements* to the *Produce*, *Trade*, *Manufacture*, and *Naviga-tion* of *Great Britain*, by which the present Burthen of Taxes will be so much *lighter*, and the rest more *cheerfully borne*; as it will be an *Evidence* of the *tender Regard* which a *British Parliament* have for *those* they represent, and an *Earnest*, that all other the Taxes on the *Necessaries of Life* will be taken off the first *proper Opportunity*.

Upon the Whole, if the *Publick Revenues* are *well looked after* and *improved*; if the *Parliament* enters entirely upon *frugal Measures*, and shall *exert itself* on this Occasion; the present great Debt may be annually discharging, and the present large Payment of Taxes to the Publick will be every Year gradually clearing; which are like so many *bloody Issues* that emaciate the *Body Politick*, and render it *Hectical* and *Consumptive*; and if the Debt was discharged, or but *half* discharged, the Nation might get rid of that Variety of *New Excises* and *High Customs* which hurt the *Foreign Traffick* and interrupt the *Domestick Trade* of *Great Britain*, and which are more especially so heavy a Weight on the *Woollen* and other its *Manufactures*.

When the National Debt is mentioned, it is only said, The Publick is so-and-so indebted, and at such-and-such an Interest. But this is not a true State of the Case; for, to speak *properly*, the Publick Funds divide the Nation into *two Ranks* of Men, of which one are *Creditors*, and the other *Debtors*; the *Creditors* are the *Three Great Corporations* and others, made up of *Natives* and *Foreigners*; the *Debtors* are the *Land-holders*, the *Merchants*, the *Shop-keepers*, and all *Ranks* and *Degrees* of Men throughout the Kingdom. Thus almost all *Great Britain* may not be improperly divided into *Debtors* and *Creditors*: Nor in a long and expensive War was this *wholly* to be avoided: But, without doubt, it has not been *true Wisdom* in *continuing* this *Distinction* so long; nor can it be *wise* and *safe* to let this *Distinction* many Years longer continue; for tho' such as *Receive* may like their Condition, yet such as are to *Pay* cannot be so well contented. It is true, some *Modern Politicians* have run upon another Notion, and several Persons are weak enough to believe, that the *not* paying off the Publick Debt will engage People the more to preserve the present Government: This Policy indeed of theirs would hold good, if it could be made out that the *Publick Creditors* are *stronger* and *more in number* than those concerned in the *Payments* to the Publick. But it rather seems to hold in Sense and Reason, That the *Throne* of that Prince, in a Free Nation, must be most firmly established, whose Affairs will permit him to ask, or who desires to collect, the fewest Taxes from his People.

SPEAKERS in the Debate on the Bill for reducing the Redeemable Funds to Three per Cent.

For

Sir John Barnard,
Sir William Lawson,
Mr. Howe,
Sir Thomas Saunderson,
Sir Joseph Jekyll,
Sir William Wyndham,
Lord Baltimore,
Mr. Sandys,
Sir J. H. Cotton,

Against

Sir Robert Walpole,
Sir Charles Wager,
Mr. Sloper,
Mr. Heathcote;
Mr. Knight,
Mr. Winnington,
Mr. Burrell,
Col. Bladen,
Mr. Bowles,
Mr. Ogletborp,
Lord Sundon,
Sir William Young,

Against the Bill 249

For 134
115
—
249

An ACT to disable *Alexander Wilson* Esquire, from taking, holding, or enjoying any Office or Place of Magistracy in the City of *Edinburgh*, or elsewhere, in *Great Britain*; and for imprisoning the said *Alexander Wilson*; and for abolishing the Guard kept up in the said City, commonly called *The Town Guard*; and for taking away the Gates of the *Nether-Bow Port* of the said City, and keeping open the same.

WHEREAS upon *Tuesday* the Seventh Day of *September*, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and Thirty-six, there was a most seditious and outrageous Riot in the City of *Edinburgh*, in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, notoriously concerted and carried on by great Numbers of wicked, disorderly, and blood-thirsty Persons, who did, with open Force and Violence, seize the Arms of the City Guard, possess themselves of the City Gates, and, by setting fire to and breaking open the Door of the *Talbooth* of the said City, did unlawfully and audaciously rescue and set at large several Criminals therein confined: And whereas Captain *John Porteous*, then a Prisoner there under Sentence of Death, but graciously reprieved by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, as Guardian of the Realm, was by the said Rioters in a cruel Manner dragged from the said Prison, and most barbarously hanged by the Neck, and murdered, in manifest Violation of the Publick Peace, in Defiance and Subversion of legal Government, in high Contempt of our Sovereign Lord the King and his Laws, and to the most presumptuous and unparallel'd Obstruction of the Royal Mercy: And whereas for some time before the committing of the said Murder and Riot, it was commonly reported in the said City of *Edinburgh*, that some such atrocious Fact would be attempted, which, by proper Care in the Magistrates, Citizens, and Inhabitants of the said City, might have been prevented; notwithstanding which, *Alexander Wilson* Esquire, then and now Provost of the said City, then actually resident in the said City, and fully apprized of the said wicked Design, did not take any Precautions to prevent the said Murder and Riot, nor use the proper or necessary Means to suppress the same, or to preserve the Peace of the said City; or, after the Perpetration of the said Fact, to discover, apprehend, or secure the Authors, Actors, or Abettors thereof, in manifest Violation of the Trust and Duty of his Office of chief Magistrate of the said City; nor were any Means or Endeavours used by the Citizens and Inhabitants of the said City, to prevent or suppress the said notorious Riot, or to hinder the said inhuman and barbarous Murder, or to discover the Persons concerned therein, in order to bring them to Justice: Now, in order to express the highest Detestation and Abhorrence of the said Murder and Riot, and to the End that the said enormous Misbehaviours and Neglects

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South Sea Com

...the Right Honourable, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,
STATE of the NATIONAL-DEBT, Provided or Unprovided for by Parliament, as
it stood 31 December 1735, and 31 December 1736. Together with an Account of the Produce of
the SINKING-FUND in that Year, and to the Payment of what Debts contracted before
the 25th of December 1716, the said FUND has been applied.

	Amount of the Na- tional Debt upon the 31st of De- cember 1735.			Increased between the 31st of Dec. 1735, and the 31st of Decemb. 1736.	Paid off within the said Time.	Amount of the Na- tional Debt upon the 31st of De- cember 1736.		
EXCHEQUER.	l.	s.	d.			l.	s.	d.
Annuities for long Terms, being the Remainder of the original Sum contributed and unsub- scribed to the South-Sea Company.	1836275	17	10			1836275	17	10½
Ditto for Lives, with Benefit of Survivorship, be- ing the original Sum contributed.	108100	0	0			108100		
Ditto payable upon Two or Three Lives, being the Sum remaining after what is fallen in by Deaths.	127899	8	0 ½		1700	126199	8	0
Annuities at 5 l. per Cent. per Annum.	161108	6	8			161108	6	8
Ditto on Lottery 1710.	109200	0	0			109200	0	
Annuities on the Plate Act 6 Georgii primi Regis.	312000					312000	0	
Ditto on Nevis and St. Christopher's Debentures at 3 l. per Cent.	37821	5	1 ½			37821	5	1½
Annuities at 3 l. 10 s. per Cent. for the Year 1731.	400000					400000		
Exchequer Bills on the Victuallers Act Anno 1726.	4814000					481400		
Ditto made out for Interest on old Bills exchanged.	2200					2200		
Duties on Salt continued Anno 1734.	950000				160000	790000		
Duties on Salt continued Anno 1735.				500000		500000		
The Land-Tax and Duties on Malt being An- nual Grants, are not charged in this Account, nor the 100000 L. charg'd on the Deductions of 6 d. per Pound.				600000		600000		
EAST-INDIA Company.								
By two Acts of Parliament y ^e Will. Regis. and two other Acts 6 & 10 Anne Regina.	3200000					3200000		
Bank of ENGLAND.								
On their original Fund at 6 l. per Cent.	1600000					1600000		
For cancelling Exchequer Bills Anno 3 Georgij primi.	1500000					1500000		
Purchased of the South Sea Company.	4000000					4000000		
Annuities at 4 l. per Cent. charged on the Duty of Coals since Lady-Day 1719.	1750000					1750000		
Ditto charged on the Surplusses of the Funds for Lottery 1714.	1250000					1250000		
Ditto for Lottery 1731.	800000					800000		
SOUTH-SEA Company.								
On their Capital Stock and Annuities 9 Georgij pri- mi Regis.	29302203	5	6		1000000			
	47928298	3	3	1100000	1161700	47866598	3	3

	l.	s.	d.	Dr.	Per Contra	Cr.	
THE Exchequer to Cash of the inking Fund on the 1st of Dec. 1735, is To the Produce of the Sinking Fund be- ween the 31st of Dec. 1735, and the 31st of Dec. 1736, viz. On the aggregate Fund. General Fund. outh Sea Comp. Fund.	697996	15	9	137730 13 10	BY Money issued towards discharg- ing the National Debt between December 31. 1735, and December 31. 1736. To the South-Sea Company, in Dis- charge of so much of their Capital Stock of New Annuities To George Lord Middleton, & aliis, for a Debt due on the Bankers An- nuities, the Money reserv'd for the Payment of the said Annuities being carried to the Sinking Fund, by an Act 13 Georgii. To compleat the 1000000 L. grant- ed for the Service of the Year 1735. To make good the Deficiencies of Lottery Annuities in 1731, at Chri- mas 1735. To pay Interest on the Loan on the Salt Duty further continued, 1735. To pay the Annuities on 600000 L. at 3 per Cent. granted 1736.	381616 13 11 123834 9 9½ 1203447 19 6 1341178 13 4	1000000 2439 16 11 37984 16 10043 3 1 10000

of Duty, herein before mentioned, may not go unpunished, and that other Persons may not presume, through Hopes of Impunity, to be guilty of the like for the future; *Be it enacted* by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said *Alexander Wilson* be, and he is hereby, from and immediately after the passing this Act, disabled, and made incapable to have, hold, exercise, or enjoy the said Office of Provost of the said City of *Edinburgh*: And that he the said *Alexander Wilson* be, and he is hereby for ever hereafter, disabled, and render'd incapable, to have, hold, exercise, or enjoy any Office or Place of Magistracy in the said City of *Edinburgh*, or elsewhere, in *Great Britain*.

And it is further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That a new Provost be immediately chosen in the room of the said *Alexander Wilson*, in the same Manner as if the said *Alexander Wilson*, was naturally dead; and that he, the said *Alexander Wilson*, shall be detained and kept in close and safe Custody, without Bail or Mainprize, during the Space of (One whole Year) to be accounted from the Day of passing this Act, in any Goal or Prison within the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, to the Custody of the Goaler or Keeper whereof the said *Alexander Wilson* shall from time to time be committed, in Pursuance of this Act, by any Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any Secretary of State, of His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, which Warrant or Warrants any Secretary of State for the time being is hereby authorized and empowered to make.

And whereas the said City of *Edinburgh* hath, for many Years past, kept up a Military Guard, called the *Town Guard*, which upon the said late unhappy Occasion has appeared to be of no Use: And whereas, for want of an open Communication between the said City, and a Place called the *Cannongate*, adjoining thereto, wicked and disorderly Persons are the more encouraged (especially in the Night, when the Gates of the *Nether-Bow Port* of the said City are shut) to attempt to commit Disorders and Riots in the said City: And whereas, it is just and necessary, that the Power of keeping up the said Guard should be taken away, and that the said *Nether-Bow Port* should be kept open, *Be it further enacted* by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the first Day of *July 1737*, the said Military Guard, commonly called the *Town Guard*, be taken away, and abolished, and no longer kept up; any Law, Statute, Prescription, or Usage to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding: And that the then Provost and Bailiffs of *Edinburgh*, on, or before the said first Day of *July 1737* shall, cause the said Gates of the *Nether-Bow Port* to be taken down, and that the Communication between the said City and the *Cannongate*, be for ever hereafter kept open, both by Night and by Day; any Law or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Propos'd by the Duke of *ARGYLE*, that the Judges should deliver their Opinions upon the following Questions, relating to the above Act.

1. IF an Execution should be perform'd in *Stocks-Market*, where a Guard of the Regular Troops should be drawn up by lawful Command, to prevent a Rescue of the Criminal; and should several Stones thrown from among the Croud, light among them, by some of which several Soldiers should be bruised and wounded, would such a Guard be guilty of a Crime, if by firing among the Croud, they should kill several Persons? and if guilty of a Crime, what Crime it would be?
2. Upon Occasion of a Riot in or near Town, where a Regiment is quarter'd, should the Sheriff of the County order the Commanding-Officer to assemble the Regiment, and march to his Assistance against the Rioters, is such Officer oblig'd to obey? Or may he obey? And what Penalty there is, if he should refuse?
3. If a Detachment of the Army is order'd to prevent a Number of People from pulling down of Houses, or committing any other illegal Action, and that the Commanding-Officer of such Detachment has Orders to repel Force by Force, can such Detachment lawfully make Use of Force by Firing, unless they are attack'd by the Rioters?
4. In case Rioters should be pulling down Houses, or doing any other Mischief in one Part of the Town, and a Detachment of the Army should be order'd in aid of the Civil Magistrate, to march thither to disperse them, and a Number of People should assemble, and stop up such of the Passages through which such Detachment must necessarily pass, whether such Detachment may use Force to disperse the People so assembled, in order to pass that Way, without being first attack'd by them?

Ordered accordingly.

Supposing such an Execution in *Edinburgh Grass-Market*, the *Scotch Judges* to answer the same Questions by the *Scotch Laws*, and sign their Opinions.

Ordered accordingly.